

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 05449 191252Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9444

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5449

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UR US

SUBJ: 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

REF: MOSCOW 5442

1. DURING CALL ON KORNIYENKO I ASKED WHETHER HE COULD TELL ME ANY MORE ABOUT SOVIET CELEBRATION OF 30TH ANNIVERSARY ENDING OF WORLD WAR II, PARTICULARLY ROLE WHICH U.S. DELEGATION WILL BE EXPECTED TO PLAY. KORNIYENKO REPLIED THAT WE WILL BE HEARING MORE DETAILS ABOUT THIS FROM PROTOCOL SECTION OF MFA BUT THAT PRESENT PLANS ARE TO HAVE CEREMONY (A "SOLEMN MEETING") AT THE KREMLIN MARKING THE OCCASION ON MAY 8 AND A RECEPTION ON MAY 9. VISITING DELEGATIONS WILL BE INVITED TO BOTH OF THESE OCCASIONS, KORNIYENKO SAID, AS WELL AS DIPLOMATIC CORPS. THERE WOULD ALSO BE A WREATHLAYING CEREMONY AT THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER WHICH SOVIET LEADERSHIP AND FOREIGN DELEGATIONS WILL ATTEND. THERE WILL BE NO PARADE, KORNIYENKO SAID.

2. WHEN I ASKED ABOUT CEREMONIES IN MURMANSK, KORNIYENKO SAID THAT THESE WILL TAKE PLACE ON MAY 7 AND THAT WE WILL BE RECEIVING INVITATION DIRECT FROM MURMANSK AUTHORITIES. HE POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY BE "DIFFICULT" FOR ME TO ATTEND THIS CEREMONY SINCE IT WAS "DANGEROUS" TO DEPEND ON AIRPLANE TRANSPORTATION GIVEN "UNCERTAIN WEATHER CONDITIONS" IN THE MURMANSK AREA. EVEN IF IT WERE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE FOR SPECIAL PLANE, HE SAID, I WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO COUNT ON RE-

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TURNING TO MOSCOW IN TIME FOR THE MAY 8 CEREMONIES.

3. COMMENT: SEEMS CLEAR FROM ABOVE THAT SOMEONE OTHER THAN
I WILL REPRESENT EMBASSY AT MURMANSK.
STOESSEL

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NNN

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